

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 49

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 24

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 49—Relative to the California Golden Poppy.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 1, 2003.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 49, Runner. California Golden Poppy.

This measure would commemorate March 2, 2003, as the 100th anniversary of the California Golden Poppy as the official State Flower of California.

WHEREAS, The Golden Poppy became California's official flower on March 2, 1903; and

WHEREAS, The Golden Poppy, Matilija Poppy, and Mariposa Lily were all originally nominated as California's State Flower. The California Golden Poppy won by a landslide; and

WHEREAS, The official name of the California Golden Poppy is *Eschscholzia californica*; and

WHEREAS, Since the Golden Poppy is the Golden State's official flower, it is protected by state law which prohibits persons from picking or destroying it; and

WHEREAS, The California poppy was most likely first seen in 1542 by European members of the Cabrillo expedition; and

WHEREAS, Adelbert von Chamisso first described the California poppy in 1820; and

WHEREAS, Poppies are generally considered a perennial flower, although they are grown as an annual in colder zones; and

WHEREAS, Early sailors are said to have nicknamed California, La Tierra del Fuego, or "Land of Fire," for the rolling foothills carpeted with poppies; and

WHEREAS, California poppy blossoms are 2- to 3-inch cups of gold, bronze, scarlet, terra cotta, rose, or white; and

WHEREAS, Poppy blossoms close at night and open again in the morning; and

WHEREAS, The Golden Poppy is best planted by seed in well-drained, sandy soil that has been well spaded; and

WHEREAS, California poppies should be planted by direct seed when possible; and

WHEREAS, Poppies transplant best when very young, and grow best in cool, sunny conditions; and

WHEREAS, The Antelope Valley California Poppy State Reserve is located 15 miles west of the City of Lancaster, and its 1,745 acres serve to protect and perpetuate outstanding displays of the Golden Poppy with the reserve's several miles of winding trails that allow expansive views of the poppy and other brilliant wildflowers; and

WHEREAS, In the City of Lancaster, the annual California Poppy Festival attracts about 60,000 visitors each year and is held every April in Lancaster City Park as a two-day event that includes a variety of arts and crafts, environmental displays, a children's carnival, and performances by well-known jazz artists; and

WHEREAS, Many comment on the irony of the Golden Poppy as California's State Flower, given the famous 1849 Gold Rush, which labeled our state the "land of opportunity"; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the California State Legislature hereby commemorates March 2, 2003, as the 100th anniversary of the California Golden Poppy as the official State Flower of California; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

